

GETTING STARTED IN COIN COLLECTING

In the 1920's during a vacation trip to Padre Island, my grandfather was walking on the beach after a hurricane. He noticed a small mound of sand and sitting atop it was a 1922 silver dollar. He held onto that coin for nearly 50 years. When he passed on, my aunts made sure it was given to me. It's been in my collection for 40+ years and I treasure it; not just for its value but because it belonged to my grandfather.

It was many years later, that I really developed the passion and interest in coin collecting. I found myself, going to the bank and getting rolls and rolls of coins...whatever I could afford which wasn't very much. Then I'd take time and go through them. Usually, I found some coins that I felt were worth keeping. Also, back then, one could still find in their small change, silver dimes, quarters and even half dollars.

At some point, I realized it was important to get those coins out of jars and other containers, where I had stored them. I found a coin shop that sold coin holders and albums. I then started getting the coins organized, particularly by their denominations, but other than the fact that all these coins looked really neat, in their albums, I really didn't know too much about them, especially, their value.

To gain more knowledge of those coins that I had chosen to collect, I looked for coin magazines with articles as well as some coin books that would give me some idea of what the values were for what I had in my "beginning coin collection".

I found that some of my friends, co-workers also had the same interest in coin collecting. They had become members of a couple of different coin clubs in the area. I joined these coin clubs and soon found myself, enjoying and sharing with others this fascinating hobby.

Being a member of those clubs, helped to broaden my knowledge and interest not only in U.S. coins, but also in World Coins, Paper Money, Medals, Tokens, etc. I became familiar with the words, "Numismatics" and "Numismatist".

Throughout the years, my collection has grown, along with increased knowledge of the coins.

Little did I know, that way back then, that the gift of that special coin would start me on the pathway to a wonderful and interesting hobby that has become such a big part of my life today..... continuing in a lifetime of fun and enjoyment for me.